



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: KOGUT-O'CONNELL ET AL. )  
Serial No: 09/879,270 ) Group Art:  
Filed: June 12, 2001 ) 2154  
For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR )  
MANAGING PREFERRED WEB SITE )  
LINKS )

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**DECLARATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.131**

Judy J. Kogut-O'Connell, Ryan S. Carrington, Jackie L. Hill, Catherine Ng, and  
Ann T. Storms declare and say that:

1. We are the inventors of the invention claimed in the above-identified patent application.
2. We conceived in the United States the invention disclosed and claimed in the above-identified patent application prior to May 5, 1999 and then reduced the invention to practice in the United States prior to May 5, 1999.
3. As evidence in support of this prior conception and reduction to practice, submitted herewith is the following evidence of activity done in the United States.

(a) Exhibit A is Lotus Freelance Presentation that describes the features of a procurement-oriented embodiment of the invention (Web-Key) in support of conception prior to May 5, 1999. Page 1 of Exhibit A generally defines the invention tool including an Intranet site of Uniform Resource Locators (URLs), links from the listing of URLs to the corresponding websites, and operation facilitation independent of a system user's running application as recited in independent claims 1, 5, and 9 of the application. Page 2 of Exhibit A describes the advantages of the invention, including consistency in communicating new websites, as well as updating, maintaining, and deleting websites. Page 2 of Exhibit A also specifies a repository of the websites made immediately accessible to new employees and a user interface as recited in independent claims 1, 5, and 9 of the application.

(b) Exhibit B is an email from co-inventor, Jackie Hill, which was forwarded by co-inventor, Ann Storms, both of which pre-date May 5, 1999. The subject email relates to a proposed draft of an announcement for the Web-key invention. In particular, Exhibit B provides instructions to Web Key users for installing the tool on a desktop (see paragraph 3). These instructions for installation and use of the tool clearly support conception and reduction to practice. This email further describes the elements of the invention as claimed in Applicants' independent claims 1, 5, and 9 of the application. Specifically, Exhibit B, paragraph 4 provides support for "receiving a request from a user client system to incorporate information relating to a web site into said web key tool." Paragraph 4 also provides instructions for requesting the addition of a site to the Web Key directory as recited in independent claims 1, 5, and 9. Additionally, Exhibit B,

paragraph 3 recites “[t]o gain access to this tool simply clicking (sic) on the button below and launch it.” Thus, paragraph 3 provides support for “launching said web key tool.” In addition, paragraphs 3 and 4 provide support for “transmitting said information to a...storage location; saving approved information; [and] updating related database files with respect to said approved information” as recited in independent claims 1, 5, and 9. Paragraph 3 indicates a repository of URLs to which access is granted via an icon of the Web Key tool. Paragraph 4 states that a “list [of URLs] will be updated on a regular basis.” Thus, Exhibit B clearly supports conception and reduction to practice prior to May 5, 1999.

(c) Exhibit C is a user interface screen of the Web Key tool as seen by a user and which pre-dates May 5, 1999. The subject user interface screen demonstrates conception and reduction to practice as prior to May 5, 1999. Specifically, the user interface screen states “[i]f there is a site that you use on a regular basis and you believe would benefit other global procurement employees, and it is not currently included in the list below, please forward the URL to Cathy Buresch/Charlotte/IBM/ @ IBMUS.” Thus, the user interface screen provides support for “receiving a request from a user client system to incorporate information relating to a web site into said web key tool” as recited in independent claims 1, 5, and 9. In addition, the user interface screen of Exhibit C illustrates categories of URL listings as recited in independent claims 1, 5, and 9, namely, Procurement Sites, Accounts Payable Sites, Travel/Meetings, Employee Services, and News/Publications. Within each category various related sites are listed as shown in the

user interface screen of Exhibit C. The applicants submit that, collectively, Exhibits A through C clearly demonstrate conception and reduction to practice prior to May 5, 1999.

4. The undersigned declare that all statements made herein of their own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 101 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of this application or any patent issuing thereon.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Judy J. Kogut-O'Connell

Date: 7-20-05

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ryan S. Carrington

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Jackie L. Hill

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Catherine Ng

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Ann T. Storms